

**ATTACHMENT A****Claims**

5    Claims 1-18 cancelled

19. (new)    The method of prophylaxis or treatment of  
              infectious diseases or diseases whose course is  
              influenced by infections wherein inhibitors of  
10            acid sphingomyelinase or of inhibitors of products  
              of the reaction catalyzed by this enzyme, in  
              particular ceramide are used.

20. (new)    The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein  
15            the inhibitors are antidepressants, in particular  
              tricyclic or tetracyclic antidepressants.

21. (new)    The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein  
              the antidepressants are amitryptiline or  
20            imipramine.

22. (new)    The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein  
              the inhibitors are substances derived from  
              tricyclic or tetracyclic antidepressants, in  
25            particular from amitryptiline or imipramine.

23. (new)    The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein  
              the inhibitors are desipramine or FGF (fibroblast  
              growth factor) or substances derived therefrom.  
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24. (new)    The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein  
              the inhibitors are antibodies, in particular  
              neutralizing antibodies.

35    25. (new)    The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein  
              the antibodies are directed against acid  
              sphingomyelinase.

26. (new) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the antibodies are directed against ceramide.
- 5 27. (new) The method of prophylaxis or treatment of infectious diseases or diseases whose course is influenced by infections wherein substances which inhibit the formation of ceramide-rich membrane platforms are used.
- 10 28. (new) The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the substances are  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin, nystatin or filipin or substances derived therefrom.
- 15 29. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19 or claim 27, wherein the infectious diseases are viral, bacterial, parasitic or mycological infectious diseases.
- 20 30. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19 or claim 27, wherein the infectious diseases are Aids, hepatitis A, rhinoviral diseases, spring-summer meningoencephalitis (SSME), rubella, influenza, tuberculosis, meningococcal infections or malaria.
- 25 31. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19 or claim 27, wherein the disease whose course is influenced by infections is cystic fibrosis.
- 30 32. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19 or claim 27, wherein the infectious diseases are rinderpest or swine fever.
- 35 33. (new) A pharmaceutical composition including an effective amount of at least one substance derived from tricyclic or tetracyclic antidepressants, in particular from amitryptiline or imipramine, and a pharmaceutical carrier.

34. (new) A pharmaceutical composition including an effective amount of desipramine, FGF,  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin, nystatin or filipin or at least one substance derived therefrom, and a pharmaceutical carrier.
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35. (new) A pharmaceutical composition including an effective amount of at least one antibody directed against acid sphingomyelinase, in particular neutralizing antibody, and a pharmaceutical carrier.
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36. (new) A pharmaceutical composition including an effective amount of at least one antibody directed against ceramide, in particular neutralizing antibody, and a pharmaceutical carrier.
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